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Chinese Communist Withdrawal From Korea

The Chinese Communists have announced that the third and final phase of their withdrawal from Korea will begin on 25 September. Remaining to be withdrawn during this phase are about 111,000 troops, including the Chinese Communist 1st Army, two artillery divisions, an antiaircraft artillery division, and a rocket-launcher division. Four armies and support units totaling about 200,000 troops have already been withdrawn from Korea. The 16th and 23rd Armies were withdrawn during the first stage completed on 25 April, and the 21st and 54th Armies withdrew during the second stage completed on 14 August.

The repositioning of the North Korean Army, which has a strength of about 334,000 men, has resulted in some loss of defensive depth, but the Chinese are maintaining strong forces across the border and have announced that they will return to North Korea if hostilities are resumed. There are at present no indications that the Communists intend to initiate hostilities in North Korea.

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